

Torrance Herald

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Election Post-Mortem

While the April 10 municipal election is fresh in our minds it might be a good time to review a system whereby 20 candidates can seek election to the City Council and a candidate polling about 5 per cent of the vote can beat out one-third of the slate.

We think Torrance citizens should take a long look at the procedure by which candidates are selected with the view toward offering some changes.

At the present time, a candidate must meet minimum residence and citizenship requirements, get five registered voters to sign a nominating petition, and file it with the city clerk.

From that point on, he is a qualified, bona fide candidate.

In some cases, we suspect, candidates may have taken the slight trouble to qualify for a municipal ballot in recent years as the result of a neighborhood bet or after a friendly discussion of city politics at the corner pub.

Oftentimes, it appears, candidates getting on the ballot with such flimsy motivation have completed their campaigns once they have qualified their nominations. Candidates have sought city offices without making a public appearance, without a single statement on their qualifications or stand on city issues, and without offering any means by which the voters can know who they are.

Such candidates cannot be serious contenders for public office and should not be on the ballot.

A principal means of restricting the ballot to those who seriously seek election is the filing fee. We believe the City Council should give serious thought to establishment of a reasonable fee as one of the prerequisites to seeking election to a city office.

Such a fee would not, we believe, operate against the legitimate candidate, and could be returnable to any candidate polling a stated percentage of the vote.

Such a system would not bar serious candidates from the ballot. Any candidate who has the talent and time to serve in a city office will have what it takes to get up a reasonable filing fee.

This is a serious matter and one we think the city should give its studied consideration. In just two years, we'll be going through it all again and the voters deserve to have a slate of serious candidates from which to select their officials.

Opinions of Others

Campaign promises are the same everywhere—bigger benefits, more services, something for everyone—and all for nothing. Costs are ignored. The public rarely is reminded that if these promises are fulfilled there will be higher taxes. Those seeking public office should show the price tag that accompanies each of their promises. Governments are, in a sense, consumers' cooperatives—they act as the purchasing agent for the public. Many persons fail to realize that when they elect a candidate pledged to increase government spending, they are in effect voting for higher taxes.—*Attamont (N.Y.) Enterprise*.

Federal aid is like giving yourself a blood transfusion in your left arm, drawing it from your right arm, and spilling 90 per cent of it on the way across.—*Mountain Home (Idaho) News*.

ROYCE BRIER

Wheels of International Intrigue Rolling on Oil

Half a century ago the vital resources for making a nation great were iron ore and coal.

Today petroleum is at least as important to greatness, perhaps more important. All people hunger for oil and the power it confers, but pitifully few have it.

The writer has recently returned from Venezuela, which holds, due to a geological freak, one of the four great oil reservoirs on earth. But it may be doubted if most Venezuelans are fully aware how much this oil makes them different from less favored peoples.

President Nasser last year lost his venture in Syria, and

a revolt recently brought pro-Nasser forces temporarily to power. But Nasser's aspiration as an Arab leader has little meaning so long as his influence falls short of that Arabia which has oil.

Yet oceans of oil lie adjacent to Syria in Iraq, where a murky dictatorship disposes of part of the world's second greatest oil reservoir. Annual production in barrels: Iraq, 350 million; Saudi Arabia, 450 million; Iran, 390 million; Kuwait area, 710 million; total, 1.9 billion.

North America is the richest of all, with 2.9 billion, nine tenths of it in the United States.

The other two fields are

And No Fringe Benefits, Either!



THIS WILD WEST by Lucius Beebe

Starvation a Sure Cure For Dread Marx' Disease

Inevitably, in the hassle over the obscene notion of feeding the Communist enemy in Cuba so that the regime there may continue to function as an explicit beachhead for the Russians with whom, at the moment, we may be factually at war, there come smoking from Berkeley, the Slobovia of the B a n t h e B o m b, anguished bleatings invoking the most archaic of words in the contemporary world lexicon, "American idealism and humanitarianism."

"If the people of this so-called Christian nation permit innocent people on another land to starve because their political beliefs are antithetical to ours, then America is no more idealistic or humanitarian than our avowed enemies in the Kremlin." That's what the man said. What is so depraved and wicked about permitting an enemy nation coercion? We

have done our best, variously, in the last half century to starve the Germans, the Japanese, the Italians into submission, and what's good enough for them is probably too good for the Cubans who had no beef with us in the first place.

As friends of the United States, Cubans lived high on the hog and enjoyed an unprecedented prosperity. Conned by a many psychopath into making snoot faces at Uncle Sam and playing footsy with the Russians, they suddenly find themselves on short rations and wanting Uncle Sap back again filling the hog trough in return for the confiscation of hundreds of millions of dollars in invested American property. A little starvation seems to be a wonderful cure for Marx' disease or the Kremlin rot.

The Cuban masses, of their own free will, bought the Castro revolution and if with it they bought their own economic obliteration, fair enough. They bought communism and the wholesale expropriation of American investments and they welcomed the Russians and the Chinese for the specific stated purpose of establishing communism in the Western hemisphere. If this turned out to be fatal for Cuba, Americans can hardly be expected to view the circumstances as other than hilarious.

If the bill of goods they were sold by Castro turned

sour, it's the Cubans who made the deal. Nobody twisted their wrist into committing national suicide.

Back in 1899, there was a major famine in India, a country which even then and with the benevolent ministrations of the British "raj" was unable to wipe its own collective nose, and "idealistic and humanitarian" Americans loaded a ship named "Quito" with grain which was distributed free in Bombay and credited with saving countless Indian lives. India's long memory and gratitude are daily attested by the sneering insults of Krishna Menon, Mr. Khrushchev's lackey and errand boy at the U. N. So much for altruism among the starving who, until capitalist know-how enabled them to spawn like the Connecticut river shad and live as long as Old Parr, starved without blaming the United States for it.

Now the Cuban revolt is going down the drain and a very fortunate spectacle it is too. Cuba's sworn friend, China, is enjoying a famine of enchanting dimensions, and is in no position to bail out the bearded creep in Havana whom they promised their ever-faithful aid.

Nor is there any food in Russia for any such frivolous purposes as export. It's all needed at home to assure the loyalty of 170 divisions of storm troopers required to keep the slaves in their pens.

Tel Aviv Is Talking About...

A Fight Over Boxing

TEL AVIV — Tel Aviv's chief topic is the introduction here for the first time of professional boxing — and what it will mean to this metropolis of the Holy Land.

But even before the first champs step into the ring this May — a European bantam-weight title fight between Alphonse Halimi of France and Pierre Cossemyns of Belgium — the blows are already flying between proponents and opponents of professional boxing.

It all began when the noted British boxing promoter, Jack Solomons, flew in to Tel Aviv to lay the ground work for introducing the fights. In the past, boxing here has been limited to amateur bouts. Backing Solomons are a number of government officials and others who feel that the sport may provide a lot of things in Israel's favor.

For one thing, it could serve as a tourist draw, at-

tracting many more thousands to the country, particularly from Europe.

In recent months, Israel has been taking more and more interest in sports attractions for tourists: a country club is abounding at Caesarea, where a de luxe golf course, backed by Baron de Rothschild, is in operation.

But to get back to boxing. Quite apart from the tourist aspects, there is a feeling among many Israelis that sports build friends in the world, particularly among sports enthusiasts.

In the other corner of the ring are the opponents of professional boxing. Even before the bell rings, they are shouting "foul!" and protesting that fighting has no place in the Holy Land.

In the forefront of this faction are the ultra-Orthodox leaders, like Rabbi Shlomo

AFTER HOURS By John Morley

Self-Deception Put Down As Our National Pastime

WASHINGTON, D. C. — Not a day goes by that we don't read of death or injury caused by drunk driving. The penalty usually is a few hundred dollars fine and the drunk is set free to try it again.

Now if the public, their lawmakers and courts really were serious about drunks behind the wheel, they could reduce it to a ripple in 30 days. All they have to do is revise and enforce the law making it mandatory that a drunk driver go to prison three months on the first offense, six months on the second and a year on the third. After the fourth offense the driver loses his license for five years.

We believe this would sober the drunks mighty fast, especially if plans were announced in advance for building a large hoosegow to accommodate 100,000 drunks in the heat of Mojave desert.

But the majority of the public and their lawmakers and the courts are just not that mad at drunk drivers. They are only mildly mad, even though they give lip service to crusades against drunk driving every now and then. This is but one example of national self-deception . . . an art we seem to have mastered to a high degree.

The drunk driver usually kills or injures one or more persons. As abhorrent as the crime is, it is limited in its tragedy. But, for example, our self-deception and complacency over the danger of communism—which threatens the very survival of the nation—is the most dangerous of all.

Our law enforcement agencies, such as the FBI, cannot do the job alone. What is needed is an all-out war — around the clock — by organized Americans, to fight with bare knuckles and bare hearts.

The millions in organized men's and women's clubs — Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions, Optimists . . . Masons, Knights of Columbus, Hebrew organizations . . . American Legion and Legion auxiliary . . . DAR . . . Women's Federated clubs, Business and Professional Women's clubs, Soroptimists, Pilots, Zonta, YMCA, YWCA — these and other organized Americans could combine their efforts in one freedom program.

Each could appoint representatives to a "Council for America" in every community to crystallize one major effort against communism. Too much time is being spent on what the menace is — and not enough time and effort on doing something about it.

Our greatest allies are the spiritual millions behind the Iron curtain and around the world. We can unite on spiritual grounds even if we cannot unite on political.

We can launch a great universal crusade of "believers" against the "unbelievers," at home and abroad. The mira-

cle of God is in every breath of the newborn babe. You can no more stop faith by oppression of indoctrination than you can stop normal breathing by one's free will.

Faith and freedom have a common denominator. The more faith is persecuted, the more faith grows.

America needs the best diplomatic representation possible. We are not getting it. Both Republicans and Democrats in high official places are practicing the same self-deception of appointing too many ambassadors without qualification and strictly from a political base.

We need to be warned of the Castros by competent ambassadors before they appear. We need expert linguists in our embassies.

This means we must take the ambassadorships out of politics and appoint only those qualified by experience and training to diplomatic posts. We must also stop adjusting our foreign relations to the whims and selfish interests of our allies.

There is no such thing as permanent friends — or permanent enemies — among nations . . . just permanent interests. We need to protect ours. We must lead . . . not follow. We pay most of the bills: we should have more of the "say."

The next time communism forcibly takes over a country, we should break off diplomatic relations with that Communist country.

We should take steps to stop all trade with all Communist governments. If our allies want to trade with them, we must insist that no American goods are traded. This will establish a "moral beacon" for all free men to see.

If 44 nations in the United Nations again vote the Communists aggressors as is in Korea, and at the same time expect the U.S. to furnish 70 per cent (outside of South Korea) of the troops and 75 per cent of the money—while some even continued to trade with Red China — then the United States should challenge the whole scheme of the U.N. and start calling nations by their right names.

We are being bled white by spineless chiselers abroad and fuzzy-brained theorists at home who believe that the U.S., with a \$300 billion debt, should continue to assume the obligations of the universe on the false assumption that the universe is our obligation.

The best way to assist these foreign chiselers is to force them to help themselves. To ignore the disgusting spectacle of rich foreigners cavorting in the spas and resorts of their countries, unwilling to make loans to their own governments and expecting the U.S. taxpayers to bail them out, is unmitigated arrogance.

And for the U.S. to permit it — like the drunken driver — is the worst example of self-deception.

Hoppe in Wonderland

'Bless 'em All,' Pipefitters Say

Art Hoppe

It's time for another exciting report on the Missile Race. As you know, we and the Russians are having a Missile Race because of National Security. The missiles we have pointed at each other, the more secure we both feel.

You know; you see this picture in the paper of this sleek, beautiful Atlas or Titan poised on the pad. And the caption says: "On the Alert to Defend America!" And all this power kind of makes you feel strong down inside, almost like religion. I guess the Russians feel the same way.

But the nicest thing about the Missile Race is that our side's always ahead. Except maybe at election time. And this is surprising, because we face many handicaps in a missile race. Like the manifold blessings of a free society.

One very manifold blessing has been going on at Cape Canaveral. It's a rite called "blessing the manifolds." And a Senate subcommittee on labor unions calls it "the most brazen feather-bedding" of all. Which is a fine way to talk about our manifold blessings.

Frankly, I never could understand what a manifold is. But the subcommittee report says it's a delicate mechanism which is built in some factory and then shipped to Cape Canaveral for installation in our missiles. And presumably it's got a lot of pipes in it, because the Pipefitters' Union at the Cape claimed jurisdiction.

The Pipefitters demanded the right to take the manifolds apart and put them back together again. Just for fun. And overtime. Only apparently they kept coming out with pieces left over. You know how it is: "Where does this go, Al?" "Hanged if I know, Joe. Why don't you stick it in your lunch pail?" And our leaders got worried that our space program never was going to get off the ground.

So a compromise was worked out. A group of Pipefitters is now chosen as "blessers." And they sit around the manifold for exactly as long as it would take them to pull the thing apart and put it back together again. Only they don't lay a wrench on it. They sit there and "bless" it.

This works great. Our missiles get off the ground. The Pipefitters count their blessings, like maybe \$300 a week. And everybody's happy. Except perhaps the Senate subcommittee, which is demanding "immediate action" and things like that.

The reason I bring all this up is to note that the right to strike and the right of collective bargaining are, indeed, among the blessings of our free society. And they are, indeed, a handicap in the Missile Race.

So naturally you hear more and more people saying maybe we've got to curtail our manifold blessings a little. In order to build missiles faster. In order to preserve our manifold blessings. And if we gave up all our manifold blessings, we could really build missiles fast. And then we'd never be like Russia. Which doesn't have any manifold blessings.

Well, personally, I think the idea of a bunch of Pipefitters sitting around blessing a manifold is downright silly. But I also think the idea of a nation sitting around blessing its missiles is downright dangerous. Particularly, a democracy.

Morning Report:

President Kennedy was fit to be tied by the boost in steel prices. Against U.S. Steel he mobilized one Federal Grand Jury, four Cabinet officers, the Senate U.S. Anti-Trust Committee, the Federal Trade Commission, and the FBI. Held in ready reserve was the Army, Navy and the Air Force. If it had come to atomic war, there was always Cape Canaveral.

The company no doubt had expected some reaction to its price rise. But I think it got a little more than expected.

It's always been true that you couldn't fight City Hall. In this atomic age, it might be just as fool hardy to fight Washington.

Abe Mellinkoff